

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, and 7 have been amended, claims 5, 6, and 8-15 have been withdrawn, and claims 16 and 17 have been added.

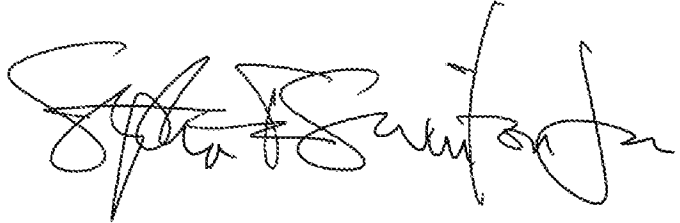
In the Office Action, claims 1-15 are subject to restriction under 35 USC 121 and 371. Specifically, the Office alleges that claims 1-7 (Group I) and claims 8-15 (Group II) do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In addition, the Office alleges that claims 1-15 are directed to three species of the generic invention, namely, Species I constituting a T7 RNA polymerase, Species II constituting a T3 RNA polymerase, and Species III constituting an SP6 RNA polymerase. In the Office Action, the Office requires election of both a single Group and Species.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Species III constituting claims 1-4, 7, and newly-added claims 16 and 17. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the Office's determination that claims 1-15 are subject to restriction and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In an effort to further prosecution of the elected claims on their merits, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors and claim 7 has been amended to change its dependency to newly-added claim 17.

Prompt examination on the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen F. Swinton, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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